

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 9, and 12-16 which were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to an election made without traverse in the reply filed on February 28, 2005 have been canceled.

Claims 4, 7, 8, and 11 remain for consideration.

Claims 4, 7, 8, and 11 were each rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hunt et al. (U.S. 5,836,506) and also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Houk (U.S. 6,253,520). Both of these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of claims 4, 7, 8, and 11 positively recite and require structure not taught or suggested by either Houk or Hunt et al. That structure is a slit-proof surface having corresponding concentric recessed and projected parts each composed of a mountain-shaped portion and a valley-shaped portion, having a corresponding radius of curvature, on a joint surface, which is formed by rolling dies having a rolling edge that has one or plural concentric edge parts on a conical incline each having a radius of curvature in a state where the said conical incline is contacted to said joint surface in a direction perpendicular to said joint surface of said steel member and pressed by a prescribed pressure. No such structure is taught or suggested by either Hunt et al. or Houk.

Hunt et al. discloses a technique of sputter coating mating faces of metallic members to be joined and as best seen in Figure 6, a photograph of the two mating surfaces, the mating surfaces are irregular and do not have the precise structure required by the claims at issue which is formed by rolling dies and not a sputter coating. Sputter coating by its very nature provides a non-uniform surface and thus Hunt et al. fails to teach or suggest the precise structure claimed in the present application.

Similarly, Houk fails to disclose the structure noted above and merely discloses a method of interlocking, similar to what carpenters use as a dado joint, see for example Fig. 22. These are more in the nature of a frusto pyramid structure and not having a radius of curvature or a mountain-shaped portion and a valley-shaped portion having a corresponding radius of curvature as required by each of the claims at issue.


**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees are due with this correspondence, however, if such fees are due, please charge any additional fees that may be needed by this amendment, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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